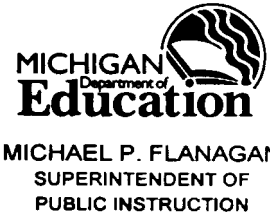





JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

**DATE:** November 7, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Criteria for NGA Subgrant

The National Governor's Association (NGA) awarded an Honors State Grant to the Governor's Office and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) in July 2005. The grant specifies two major activities. One activity will revise high school content standards, create a variety of ways to use these standards (by course, integrated sequentially, or as end-of-high-school expectations), publish and disseminate the standards, and provide professional development to ensure effective implementation. The second activity will focus on increasing early college learning opportunities by engaging a nationally known consulting firm with knowledge of dual enrollment and other credit-based transition programs to work with a state interagency team to develop state policies leading to increased student participation in dual enrollment and other college equivalency courses, particularly among students from high priority schools.

The Department has partnered effectively with Intermediate School Districts and Educational Service Agencies (ISD/ESAs) to coordinate grant activities and to collaborate on dissemination activities with new state content expectations (i.e., K-8 grade level content expectations). In face of the short timeline, lack of ability to carry over NGA grant funds, and limited MDE staff, a partnership is crucial to the success of these grant projects. The proposed criteria would allow an intermediate school district to provide oversight and coordination of activities and grant fund distribution similar to other grant projects that have become part of a statewide support system for local school districts.

The proposed subgrant would send the NGA grant funds (\$1,800,000) to an ISD/ESA to allow the grantee to:

- Act as fiscal agent in partnership with MDE dispersing NGA grant funds for both grant activity areas
- Assist MDE to meet time constraints and deadlines

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- Establish and monitor contract with a nationally known consulting firm to develop recommendations for state policy changes that would increase dual enrollment and other early college programs  
Submit quarterly progress reports to MDE

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the NGA subgrant to be awarded to an intermediate school district or regional educational services agencies as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 7, 2005.

**MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Criteria for National Governor's Association Subgrant**

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- ☐ Ensuring Excellent Educators      ☐ Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy
- ☐ Elevating Educational Leadership   ☐ Integrating Communities and Schools
- ☐ Embracing the Information Age

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and Strategic Initiatives.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

X Competitive      ☐ Formula   X New      ☐ Continuation (check all that apply)

The National Governor's Association awarded an Honors State Grant to the Governor's Office and the Michigan Department of Education in July 2005. The grant specifies two major activities. One activity will revise high school content standards, create a variety of ways to use these standards (by course, integrated sequentially, or as end-of-high-school expectations), publish and disseminate the standards, and provide professional development to ensure effective implementation. The second activity will focus on increasing early college learning opportunities by engaging a nationally known consulting firm with knowledge of dual enrollment and other credit-based transition programs to work with a state interagency team to develop state policies leading to increased student participation in dual enrollment and other college equivalency courses, particularly among students from high priority schools.

**RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA**

MDE has partnered effectively with ISD/ESAs to coordinate grant activities and to collaborate on dissemination activities with new state content expectations (i.e., K-8 grade level content expectations). In face of the short timeline, lack of ability to carry over funds, and limited MDE staff, a partnership is crucial to the success of these grant projects. The proposed criteria would allow an intermediate school district to provide oversight and coordination of activities and grant fund distribution similar to other grant projects that have become part of a statewide support system for local school districts.

## **CRITERIA**

☐ Defined in Legislation   X   Defined in Department's Grant   X   Proposed by Staff

Eligible applicants must:

- Have experience acting as fiscal agent in partnership with MDE dispersing state and/or federal grant funds.
- Have demonstrated ability working within time constraints and meeting deadlines.
- Use no more than 8% of the grant funds to oversee activities and grant fund disbursement.
- Submit quarterly progress reports to the Office of School Improvement.
- Have experience working in partnership with MDE on other curriculum projects.
- Have experience monitoring contracts for completion of grant work.
- Have experience monitoring contracts with other entities (like consulting firms) to produce grant funded products.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Eligible applicants are Intermediate School Districts or Educational Service Agencies. Target populations to be served by grant are high school students, their parents, staff, and administrators.

## **TOTAL FUNDS AVIALABLE**

\$1,800,000 during grant period July 2005-June 2007

## **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

Office of School Improvement  
Contact: Yvonne Caamal Canul